

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAI-01 H-02

NSC-05 /075 W

----- 119480

O 251530Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4233

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2514

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CY TU UN

SUBJECT: AVLONA SITUATION: POSSIBLE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

REF: (A) DAO NICOSIA IIR 6 823 0188 76, (B) DAO NICOSIA IIR

6 823 0192 76

1. REF DATT REPORTS DESCRIBE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AVLONA AREA

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IN WHICH TURKISH MILITARY FORCES HAVE CONTESTED UNFICYP PRACTICE

OF ESCORTING GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS TO CARRY OUT AGRICULTURAL WORK IN CONFRONTATION ZONE. SITUATION BECAME MORE SERIOUS ON AUGUST 25 AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. CHIEF OF STAFF (COS), UNFICYP CALLED DATT AT APPROXIMATELY 251600 LOCAL AUG 76 AND RELAYED FOLLOWING INFORMATION: DURING THE PERIOD 1100 TO 1300 HOURS LOCAL IN THE AREA OF AVLONA, THE TURKS AGAIN SENT FORWARD APPROXIMATELY 30 "FARMERS" INTO THE CONFRONTATION AREA UP TO POINT TURKS ARE NOW CLAIMING AS THEIR FORWARD DEFENSE LINE (FDL) (REF A). THE "FARMERS" WENT THROUGH THE AREA PICKING UP IMPLEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN LEFT BY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. THEY FOUND A WATER TRAILER AND ATTEMPTED TO HITCH IT TO ONE OF TWO FARM TRACTORS THEY HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM AND IN THE PROCESS TIPPED THE WATER TRAILER OVER. THE UN RESPONDED BY SENDING FERRET SCOUT CARS INTO THE AREA. UPON SEEING THE SCOUT CARS, THE "FARMERS" ATTEMPTED TO CHARGE THE FERRETS WITH THE TRACTORS. THE FERRET CREWS, SEEING THAT THEY WERE BEING ATTACKED, BEGAN TO BUTTON UP THEIR VEHICLES. ACCORDING TO UNFICYP, IN THE PROCESS OF BUTTONING UP ONE OF THE VEHICLES, THE COMMANDER HAD TWO FINGERS CHOPPED OFF WHILE CLOSING HATCH. THE INJURED SOLDIER HAS SINCE BEEN MEDICALLY EVACUATED BY UNFICYP.

3. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT IN THE AREA TO FARM BUT TO LAY CLAIM TO THE LAND. ALL APPEAR TO BE PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE. THEY ARE UNDER VERY TIGHT CONTROL AND RESPOND TO HAND AND ARM SIGNALS GIVEN BY THEIR LEADER. IN AN AREA ABOUT ONE KILOMETER WEST OF AVLONA, APPROXIMATELY 30 TURKISH SOLDIERS HAVE COME FORWARD OF THE FDL. UNFICYP SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO INTERCEPT THEM. UNFICYP ATTEMPTED TO LODGE PROTEST "FARMERS" AND SOLDIERS' ACTIONS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH THE "TFSC" AND TURKISH EMBASSY BUT WAS TOLD TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE TURKISH MILITARY. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THE ENTIRE INCIDENT IS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY THE TURKISH MILITARY. HE ASKED FOR "US HELP" TO GET TENSE SITUATION COOLED DOWN.

4. AT 1610 LOCAL, SOURCE CALLED CHARGE TO REPORT THAT
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TURKISH MILITARY HAD NOW MOVED BEYOND THEIR FDL INTO THE CONFRONTATION ZONE IN SIX PLACES FROM AVLONA ON WEST ALMOST TO FAMAGUSTA IN THE EAST. IN EACH OF SIX PLACES MOVE WAS IN PLATOON STRENGTH. UNFICYP MOVED TO HEAD THESE FORCES OFF BUT FEARED THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT, AS THIN UNFICYP CAPABILITY COULD NOT COPE WITH SIX SIMULTANEOUS MOVEMENTS. SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT FORCE COMMANDER AND UN CIVILIAN REPS IN NICOSIA WOULD HAVE URGENT MEETING AT 1700 LOCAL TO

DECIDE WHAT TO RECOMMEND TO UNSYG.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING ABOVE, WE LEARNED THAT UNFICYP COS HAD REACHED TURKISH ARMY OPPOSITE NUMBER. TURKISH COS SAID IF THE MOVEMENT FORWARD OF THE FDL IN SIX PLACES "HAD NOT STOPPED, HE WOULD ORDER IT STOPPED IMMEDIATELY." THIS HAS EASED UNFICYP CONCERN. TURKISH COS NOTED THAT HE HOPED ENTIRE SITUATION COULD BE SOLVED IN PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED AUG 26 MEETING BETWEEN TURKS AND UN AUTHORITIES.

6. COMMENT: EVEN IF THE TURKS RETURN TO THEIR LINES, THE MOVE FORWARD IN SIX PLACES APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS CEASEFIRE VIOLATION. WE WILL BE CHECKING WITH UN OFFICIALS HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE RECOMMENDING TO UNSYG EVENING AUG 25. WE WILL ALSO REPORT SOONEST ON RESULTS OF AUG 26 MEETING BETWEEN UN AND TURKS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION USUN PICKS UP ON REPORTING FROM UN OFFICIALS IN NICOSIA ON THESE EVENTS.
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